



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRINGFIELD MAN SENTENCED FOR FOUR BANK ROBBERIES

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for robbing four area banks.

Brent James Bockes, 32, of Springfield, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to 12 years and seven months in federal prison without parole. **Bockes** also was ordered to pay restitution to each of the four banks in the amount of \$9,253.

On June 30, 2004, **Bockes** pleaded guilty to all four counts of an indictment charging him with four bank robberies in central and southern Missouri. By pleading guilty, **Bockes** admitted that he robbed an Empire Bank in Ozark, Mo., on Feb. 11, 2004; a Premier Bank in Columbia, Mo., on April 9, 2002, and again on Feb. 23, 2004, and a Great Southern Bank in Lebanon, Mo., on March 16, 2004.

During the March 16, 2004, robbery of Great Southern Bank, **Bockes** handed a teller a note stating, "This is a bank robbery. Trigger the alarm at your own risk. I need 100s, 50s, 20s. Alert anyone and I will open fire. You have 45 seconds to comply. Return the note to me when you are done." As a result, the teller gave **Bockes** \$2,140.

Bockes used similar notes in each of the other three robberies, Graves said, and stole a total of approximately \$9,253 from the banks.

Bockes was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on May 6, 2004, in Springfield.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas C. Bunch. It was investigated by the Columbia, Ozark and Lebanon, Mo., police departments and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow